

REPORT
Of the Study Group
ON
Wild Life and Wild Life Products



Department of Agriculture
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

R E P O R T
O F T H E
S T U D Y G R O U P
O N
W I L D L I F E
A N D
W I L D L I F E P R O D U C T S



MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
COOPERATION
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

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P R E F A C E

This Study Group was set up by Government of India in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation to examine the possibility of increasing exports of those species of wild life and wild life products for which there is a demand in foreign markets, so as to increase foreign exchange earnings. On the other hand, there is a strong opinion in the country that due to its indiscriminate exploitation for commercial and other purposes, our wild life has been reduced to the status where many species are now rare and some even on the verge of extinction. They feel that the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of wild life and its products did not warrant an incentive in the form of increased exports to the killing of wild life.

To enable the Study Group of which I was appointed Chairman, to take a rational view of the problem, representatives of the Ministry of Commerce, and Zoological Survey of India, and wild life enthusiasts and specialists were nominated as its members.

As a basis for its recommendations, the Study Group was required to collect information from the State Forest Departments on the population dynamics of wild life for which there is an export potential. The data made available was very meagre as population studies for the species included in the study had not been undertaken so far. The Group had, therefore, to base its recommendations on very rough estimates and on reports of wild life specialists. Its recommendations are, therefore, with a view to a short-term policy only. In the meanwhile it is essential that the Forest Departments of the States and the Zoological Survey undertake the census of all important species of wild life which have an export potential so that the recommendations of this Group are reviewed within a reasonable period of time.

The Study Group held four meetings, the last being held on the 16th January, 1967. Of the original eight members, only two continued as such till the final meeting.

To the original members and those who subsequently replaced them, I express my gratitude for their cooperation and understanding in the preparation of this report. It was the personal knowledge of the wild life specialists which helped us to come to some definite conclusions.

The preparation of the report was an added burden to the Export Promotion Division of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation. They willingly undertook this burden and thereby made the task easier.

HARI SINGH
Inspector General of Forests.

NEW DELHI
JULY 3, 1967.



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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

The question of permitting exports of wild life and wild life products on a planned basis and of increasing these exports by developing suitable species of wild life in the country had been under the consideration of the Government of India for some time. A Study Group was set up in April, 1964 under the Chairmanship of Inspector General of Forests to assess the availability of wild life and wild life products in the country with a view to deciding the extent to which their export should be permitted. The composition and terms of reference of this Study Group are given in Annexure I attached to this introduction.

2. The Study Group held four meetings and its report was finalised at its last meeting held on the 16th January, 1967.

3. It was decided at the first meeting of the Study Group held on 16.4.1964 that the erstwhile Ministry of International Trade would furnish a list of those species of wild life which had export potential. On receipt of the above list, the Ministry of Food & Agriculture would address the Chief Conservators of Forests of all State Governments calling for information on the following points for the work of the Study Group:-

- (a) The estimates of the occurrence of these species and their availability for export, annually, based on the rate of their increase;
- (b) Information with regard to the applicability or otherwise of the State Wild Life Act to these species;
- (c) If these species are not protected under the Wild Life Act of the State, the manner in which their killing, capture, etc. is allowed; and,
- (d) Their suggestions for increasing the availability of these species of wild life for export purposes and for formulating suitable schemes for breeding the same in their States.

4. Data was received from the Ministry of Commerce (as in Annexure II) and the Chief Conservators of Forests but it was felt that the data was not a true index and was not adequate to lead to specific conclusions, as no ecological surveys/census had been conducted by any of the State Governments. It was, therefore, felt that with this meagre data no long term

export policy could be suggested. Keeping in view the critical foreign exchange position and the policy of wild life preservation in the country, the export of certain species of wild life and their products which are in great demand abroad were considered by the Study Group and have been dealt with in the subsequent chapters of this report. At the end of each chapter, there is a summary of conclusions and recommendations with regard to each item.

5. To facilitate the work of the Study Group, a Sub-Group was set up at the suggestion of the Chairmar to formulate proposals on peacock feathers, crocodile skins, python skins, water-lizard skins, deer musk and the common langur. The proposals of the Sub-Group have been included in the relevant chapters.

6. With a view to increasing the availability of wild life species and their products which have an export potential the Group also considered the formulation of suitable schemes for breeding farms but it was felt that since the IBWL was seized of this subject, their recommendations might be awaited.

7. From the recommendations of the VI Session of the IBWL held at Dhikala (U.P.) in June, 1965, it was noted that not much headway had been made for setting up of breeding farms in the country, etc., in view of inadequate technical know-how and the economics of these farms. Efforts of the Department of Agriculture to obtain the services of foreign experts on crocodile farms have not been successful. Experiments on peacock farms are, however, continuing.

Annexure I

No.F.14-9/64-E.P.
Government of India
Ministry of Food & Agriculture
(Department of Agriculture)
(EXPORT PROMOTION DIVISION)

NEW DELHI, the 4th April, 1964.

The question of permitting exports of wild life and wild life products on a planned basis and of increasing these exports by developing suitable species of wild life in the country has been under consideration of the Government of India for some time. It has now been decided to set up a Study Group with the following composition to conduct an investigation into this matter:-

1. Shri Hari Singh, I.G.F., Chairman
Ministry of Food &
Agriculture,
Department of Agriculture.
2. Shri K.S. Dharmakumarsinhji, Member
'Dil Bahar', Bhavnagar.
3. Dr. Salim Ali, Member (Dr. **Salim Ali**
No.33, Pali Hills, expressed his
Bandra, Bombay-50. inability to serve
on the Group and
his place was take
by Shri Humayun
Abdulali.)
4. Shri M.A. Rehman, Member (Shri Rehman
President, retired from Govt.
Forest Research Institute, service and his
Dehra Dun. place was taken
by Shri T.N.
Srivastava)
5. Dr. M.L. Roonwal, Member. (since
Director, succeeded by
Zoological Survey of India, Dr. A.P. Kapur).
Calcutta
(or his representative).

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|---|--|
| 6. Shri F.C. Gera,
Deputy Secretary,
Min. of Food & Agriculture
Department of Agriculture,
New Delhi. | Member. (Shri Gara
left the Deptt.
of Agriculture in
March, 1966 and
was succeeded on
this Group by
Shri J.S. Sarma,
Joint Commissioner
(P.C.) |
| 7. Shri V.D. Gangal,
Secretary,
Indian Board for Wild Life,
Department of Agriculture,
New Delhi. | Member (Shri Gangal
was succeeded on
this Group by
Shri S.K. Sarkar). |
| 8. Shri H.K. Singh,
Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of International Trade,
New Delhi. | Member (Since
replaced by
Smt. S.L. Singla) |
| 9. Shri R.R. Gupta,
Under Secretary,
Department of Agriculture,
New Delhi. | Secretary. (now re-
placed by Shri S.N.
Gupta, Deputy
Commissioner (Export
Promotion) |

The Study Group may coopt members or invite to its meetings such other persons as could render useful assistance to the Group in its work.

The terms of reference of the Study Group will be as under:

- (i) To estimate on the basis of available material the availability of the species of the Wild life and wild life products;
- (ii) To consider and suggest long term policies to be adopted for the export of Wild life and products of wild life;
- (iii) To recommend steps to be taken for increasing the availability of wild life and products therefrom for export purposes and,
- (iv) To suggest specific schemes with estimates of expenditure involved for developing various species of wild life for export purposes.

The Study Group will correspond directly with the State Governments/Union Territories/Central Ministries/Departments for obtaining such information/documents as may be necessary for its work and for arranging its

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tour programmes. It may also directly contact, if necessary, the representatives of various organisations and institutions, interested either in the conservation or in the exports of wild life.

Sd/- F.C. Gera.
for Secretary to the Govt. of India.

1. All State Govts./Union Territories etc.



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ANNEXURE-II.

Copy of D.O. letter No.11/1/64-Export dated 8.7.64 from Shri G.R. Kadapa, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, addressed to Shri F.C. Gera, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Food & Agriculture (Department of Agriculture), New Delhi.

Please refer to your D.O. letter No.14-9/64-EP dated the 18th June, 1964 regarding the Study Group for wild life and wild life products. A statement indicating the export potential for wild life products and wild life as collected by the C.C.I. & E. from applications received for export in the last one year is forwarded herewith.

Statement showing export potential for wild life products and wild life.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Annual export potential</u>	
1. Peacock feather	11.50 millions	
2. Peacock flues	10,000 lbs.	
3. Crocodile skins.	2,700	(numbers)
4. Python skins	3,875	(numbers)
5. Water Lizard skins.	500	(numbers)
6. Jungle Cock Neck	20,000	(numbers)
7. Deer Musk.	Rs. 28,00,000	
8. Deer Horns.	Rs. 13,00,000	
9. Lesser Pandas, living	25	(numbers)
10. Langurs, living.	250	(numbers)

Chapter-II

PEACOCK FEATHERS.

The Common Peafowl (Pavo cristatus Linn) is found in many parts of the country even upto 5,000 ft. in the Himalayas. The gorgeous ocellated tail of the adult cock which is 3-4 feet long is, in reality, the abnormally lengthened upper tail-coverts. The hen is smaller than the cock and lacks the ornamental train.

2. Peafowls are found in almost all States but are more numerous in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan where due to religious sentiment they are protected. No ecological survey or census has been conducted by any of the States for estimating the population of the bird.

3. The tail feathers of the peacock are an important export commodity. While there is some export of fancy articles made from peacock feathers, the feathers themselves are the major item of export.

4. Prior to May, 1958, peacock feathers were not controlled under Export Trade Control regulations but their export for commercial purpose was prohibited under the Sea Customs Act except as specimen illustrative of natural history. The item was brought under the Export Trade Control regulations on 7th May, 1958 and their export continued to be prohibited till 30th January, 1963. The export of peacock feathers was allowed from 30th January, 1963 subject to a ceiling of 5 million feathers, including feathers used in articles made therefrom, by all categories of exporters subject to a production of a certificate of origin from the Conservator of Forests of Gujarat and Rajasthan to the effect that these feathers had been obtained from these States only. The export of live peacocks was also allowed subject to a ceiling of 50 in number. The export quota of peacock feathers was, however, reduced to 2.5 millions (in number) in 1964 and this was further reduced to 2.0 millions in 1965. This quota of 2 millions feathers has continued since then. Export was allowed only from Gujarat and Rajasthan as peacocks were not only found in abundance in these two States but religious sentiment against their killing was so great that there was little danger of these birds being killed for the sake of the export trade.

5. Export statistics for peacock feathers were not published separately in the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India by the Director-General of

Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta till March, 1965. The export figures from 1965-66 are given below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity</u> Kg.	<u>Value</u> (Rs. in lakhs)
1965-66	4112	1.38
1966-67 (April-May)	420	0.15
1966-67 (June-March)	6455	1.90

It is apparent from the above table that the export of this item is on the increase.

6. Export quotas released for peacock feathers are in numbers under the existing policy. The quantity given in export statistics published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, is expressed in weight - kgs. The feathers generally found are of varying lengths and even the feathers of the same length differ in weight. However, on the basis of experiments conducted, it is estimated that, on an average, 700 feathers weigh one kg. (average for all lengths).

7. The Ministry of Commerce have estimated that annual export potential of peacock feathers and peacock flues is about 11.5 millions and 10,000 lbs. respectively. The trade has been representing against the inadequacy of the export quota of 2 million peacock feathers in view of large export potential. The demand for these feathers in the country is limited. The Ministry of Commerce are also of the view that the quotas should be liberalised so as to earn foreign exchange.

8. The Peacock has since been declared the 'National Bird'. A communication has been issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to all State Governments that adequate steps may be taken to protect this bird. The object of placing a ceiling on the export of feathers and the necessity of production of a certificate of origin from a Conservator of Forests was to check the killing of the bird for collection of feathers. The Indian Board for Wild Life is, however, not in favour of increasing the existing export quota ceiling of peacock feathers.

At present we are exporting 2 million feathers per annum. Taking 700 feathers as equivalent to 1 kg., this works out to about 3000 kgs. In keeping with our policy of preservation of wild life in the

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country, it is recommended that this quota should not be exceeded. It is emphasised that only complete feathers should be allowed for export. Export of articles manufactured out of peacock feathers should be freely allowed for a period of six months and at the end of this period, such exports are found to fall short of 500 kgs., the difference could be made up by the export of peacock feathers. Until then the export quota for whole feathers should be reduced to 2500 kgs. per annum. The Ministry of Commerce may be requested to collect data on the type, quantity and value of articles made of peacock feathers that are being exported by the trade.

9. Further, the Zoological Survey of India and the State Governments may be requested to take up the question of conducting the census/ecological survey of this species for which there is a considerable export potential.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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1. The quota for export of peacock feathers may be reduced from the existing quota of 3000 kgs. to 2500 kgs. per annum. Only complete feathers should be allowed for export. The export of articles manufactured out of peacock feathers should be freely allowed for a period of six months and at the end of this period, such exports are found to fall short of 500 kgs., the difference could be made up by the export of peacock feathers. (Para 8).

2. The Ministry of Commerce may be requested to collect data on the type, quantity and value of articles made out of peacock feathers that are being exported by the trade. (Para 8).

3. The Zoological Survey of India and the State Governments may be requested to take up the question of conducting census/ecological survey of this species. (Para 9).

CHAPTER III

CROCODILE AND CROCODILE SKINS

There are three species of crocodiles found in Indian waters. The popular names of these species are the gharial (Gavialis gangeticus), the mugger or marsh crocodile (Crocodilus palustris) and the salt water crocodile (Crocodilus porosus). Crocodiles are generally slow breeders. They are, however, long-lived. Gharials are found in the important river systems in the country viz. the Ganga, Mahanadi and Brahmaputra. Fish are their staple diet. They also eat birds and mammals but seldom attack man. Forty or more eggs are laid in sand banks and the young appear in the months of March and April. The actual period of incubation varies between 8 and 9 weeks. The Mugger or the marsh crocodile is the inhabitant of fresh water. It lives in swamps, rivers and tanks. In some places in India it has been kept in a state of semi-captivity. It feeds chiefly on fish and other animals available on the shore and occasionally attacks man. The eggs, generally 15 to 20 in number, are buried in the sand banks during the rainy season. The incubation period is about 40 days and varies with the temperature. The average length of the hatchlings is about 10". The salt water crocodile occurs from the Eastern Coast of India to the Philippines and northern Australia. The delta area within tidal limits is an attractive habitat of this animal. It eats all kinds of animals that come its way. This species is chiefly responsible for the annual loss of human life in Asia which is attributed to crocodiles. The female of the species builds a nest of very crude structure. It lays 25 to 60 eggs in a clutch and the incubation period is about 10 weeks.

2. The skins and hides of crocodiles are extensively used for the manufacture of the very best kind of leather, not only as fancy articles for apparel and house-hold use, but also as the upper leather for high quality shoes. The skin of this reptile offers other advantages, namely, that its wearing quality is greater than that of the most animal skins, and they can be given a finish in any colour and pattern. It is only the skin on the ventral part of the body (stomach and tail) which is used for leather, the skin of the dorsal side being too thick.

3. Due to large scale exploitation of crocodiles for the sake of their skins for export purposes, there had been a very rapid fall

in the population of crocodiles in this country. A complete ban on the export of its skin is, therefore, very necessary if the species is to be saved from complete extinction. It is felt that crocodiles being slow breeders need complete protection against killing for about a period of 10-15 years before any significant increase in their numbers can be expected. This analysis is, however, based on visual observation and not on any ecological survey or census.

4. The export of crocodile skins was regulated on the basis of necessary export permits issued by the Secretary-General, Indian Board for Wild Life, Calcutta. It was felt that the large number of skins being exported was endangering the species and that unless protected the species would become extinct. A complete ban on the export of crocodile skins was imposed in early 1958 on the basis of a recommendation to this effect made by the Indian Board for Wild Life at its third Session held at New Delhi in February, 1958. It was felt that there had been excessive exploitation of crocodiles for the sake of their skins for export purposes and the species were being driven to extinction.

Around April, 1961, the trade started clamouring for a relaxation in the ban on the export of crocodile skins. This move was also strongly supported by the then Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Indian Board for Wild Life was of the view that in the absence of any substantial increase in the crocodile population since 1958, it would not be desirable to relax the existing ban on the export of its skin. In view of the need for earning more foreign exchange in the present context of country's economy and to maintain contact with the market for this product, the Government of India made a partial relaxation to the extent that the export of crocodile skins might be permitted subject to a ceiling of 250 skins. To ensure that immature crocodiles were not killed for the export trade, the minimum width of exportable skins was prescribed at 12". This regulation came into effect from January, 1963. A quota of 100 live crocodiles was also permitted to be exported per year. The above quotas are continuing since then.

5. The following table shows the exports of crocodile skins from India:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
	Kg.	(Rs. in lakhs)
1963-64	3545	1.04
1964-65	814	0.26

The export figures for later years are not separately specified in the Trade Classification. They are classified under the omnibus head 'Other reptile skins'. As it is considered that crocodile skins are an important item of foreign exchange earnings, it is necessary that separate figures for it are published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. There has, however, been no export of live crocodiles from the country.

Export quotas released for crocodile skins are made in numbers under the existing policy. The quantity expressed in export statistics published by the Director-General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, is in weight - kgs. Efforts are being made to determine a conversion ratio to co-relate weight to numbers.

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declaring it
a protected
species
wherever this

6. On the advice of the Indian Board for Wild Life, all State Governments were requested to exercise greater control on the killing of this reptile. It had not been done and by adopting more effective methods of prevention and detection of the capture or killing of the reptile. It is now a protected species in almost all the States.

7. The Nayudamma Committee Report on Leather and Allied Industries has inter alia recommended that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should consider the question of setting up crocodile and reptile farms for increasing the supply of these skins and prepare a scheme for this purpose in consultation with the concerned State Governments, where necessary. The Indian Board for Wild Life also recommended that the State Governments be requested to examine the possibility of starting special farms for breeding crocodiles and other reptiles as is being done in the countries like Thailand.

The question of setting up of crocodile farms with a view to breeding crocodiles for earning foreign exchange was examined in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in consultation with the State Governments concerned and necessary steps were initiated to secure the services of a crocodile breeding expert under the Colombo Plan.

This proposal has for the present been dropped because of the non-availability of foreign experts in this field and the lack of technical knowledge on the subject in the country.

8. It is the opinion of most people knowledgeable in such matters that even now the crocodile is in a precarious situation and that unless it is given adequate protection the species would become extinct. In view of the rapidly diminishing numbers of crocodiles, it is recommended that the export of crocodile skins should be completely banned, and the State Governments should be asked to declare the crocodile a protected species where this has not yet been done. The representative of the Ministry of Commerce, however, voiced her dissent in this recommendation as she felt that if the export of crocodile skins was to be banned, a similar control should be imposed on use of the skins in the domestic market.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The Zoological Survey of India and the State Governments may be requested to take up the question of conducting census/ecological survey for all/three species of crocodiles. (Para 3).
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 2. The export of crocodile skins should be completely banned. (Para 8).
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 3. The State Governments should be asked to declare the crocodile a protected species where this has not yet been done. (Para 8).
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Chapter IV

PYTHONS AND PYTHON SKINS

There are about ten species of Pythons found in the world. Out of these, the Indian Rock Python (Python molurus) inhabits India and Ceylon and other neighbouring parts of Asia. In India, it is found extensively all over the country particularly in rocky areas. Its length is about 10-14 ft. but in rare cases it may attain a length of 17-18 ft. It is a handsome snake, with large grey-brown to pink-brown patches on a yellow-brown background. Pythons become very tame in captivity particularly those that are hatched in captivity or caught very young.

2. The skins of pythons are extensively used for the manufacture of the very best kind of leather and fancy articles for apparel and house use. The skin of the reptile offers other advantages, namely, the their wearing quality is greater than that of most other animal leathers. It is in great demand in foreign markets and there has been large scale exploitation of pythons for this purpose. Pythons being slow breeders, over-exploitation has reduced their population considerably and it is feared that this would lead to imbalance in nature as rats, mice and other small mammals on which the reptile preys would increase, causing greater damage to crops. It was, therefore, felt that pythons require complete protection against killing for about a period of 10-15 years to save them from complete extermination and to enable them to regain their position in the scheme of nature. No estimates with regard to their availability can be given as no such study has been made in any of the States. The Zoological Survey of India and the State Governments may be requested to take up the question of conducting census/ecological survey of this species.

3. The export of python skins was first regulated on the basis of permits issued by the Secretary-General, Indian Board for Wild Life at Calcutta. It was felt that the export of a large number of skins was endangering the species and a complete ban on the export of python skins was imposed in the year 1955. During the period from 1955 to 1962, this ban on the export of python skins was in force but in September, 1962, the Ministry of Commerce pressed the Ministry of Food & Agriculture to allow the export of live pythons and python skins. In view of the need for earning foreign exchange in the

context of country's economy and to maintain contact with the markets for this product, the Ministry of Food & Agriculture made a partial relaxation to the extent that the export of python skins might be permitted subject to a ceiling of 250 skins, not less than 12" in width, per annum. The limit on the width of the skin was fixed to prevent the killing of immature pythons as this reptile is an extremely slow breeder and is comparatively rare in the country. This regulation came into effect from January, 1963. A quota of 100 live Pythons per annum was also permitted to be exported every year. The above quotas have been continued since then.

4. The following table shows the annual exports of snake and python skins from India:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity</u> Kg.	<u>Value</u> (Rs. in lakhs)
1963-64	2321	0.33
1964-65	1834	0.65
1965-66	4514	3.92
1966-67 (April-May)	108	0.13
1966-67 (June-March)	3900	6.12

Python and snake skins are clubbed together under one head for export purposes and as such separate figures for export of python skins are not available. As python skins are an important item from the angle of foreign exchange earnings, it is necessary that separate figures for this item are published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. There has, however, been no export of live pythons from the country.

Export quotas for python skins are in terms of numbers under the existing policy. But the figures given in export statistics published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, are in weight - kgs. Efforts are being made to find the conversion ratio between the two units i.e. weight and number.

5. The trade has been representing against the export restrictions; both the quota limit and the size limit, on various grounds, but the Indian Board for Wild Life has been strongly against any relaxation. It is considered preferable to preserve the species and ensure that there is a continuous availability of the skin for purposes of

export and earning foreign exchange.

6. The Ministry of Commerce ~~have~~, however, estimated that there is an export potential of 3875 python skins per annum. It is felt that the basis for the above figure is not correct as exporters do not generally submit export applications on the basis of ready stock.

7. The python is a protected species in almost all the States. Recently, the Ministry of Food & Agriculture had asked the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, and the Curator, Bombay Natural History Society, to prepare a scheme for the commercial breeding of pythons, for the consideration of the Government. The general view is that such a scheme would not be an economic proposition.

8. Keeping in view the policy of preservation of wild life in the country, it is recommended that the existing policy of allowing the export of 250 (in numbers) python skins of not less than 12" width, per annum, may continue for the present. The State Governments may be requested to declare python a protected species where this has not yet been done, and this subject placed before the I.B.W.L. The Ministry of Commerce should also be requested to maintain separate data for the export of pythons and python skins by numbers and not by weight.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The Zoological Survey of India and the State Governments may be requested to take up the question of conducting census/ecological survey in connection with the Indian Rock Python. (Para 1-2).

2. The existing policy of an export quota of 250 (in numbers) python skins of not less than 12" width, per annum may continue for the present. (Para 8).

3. The State Governments may be requested to declare python a protected species where this has not yet been done, and this subject be placed before the I.B.W.L. (Para 8).

4. The Ministry of Commerce should be requested to maintain separate data for the export of pythons and python skins by numbers and not by weight. (Para 8).

Chapter V

WATER LIZARDS AND OTHER MONITOR
LIZARDS AND THEIR SKINS

The Water Monitor Lizard (Varanus salvator) is found between Ceylon and the Philippines, including the East Indies. Being scattered over so wide an area, it is not surprising to find several sub-species, which differ both in colouring and also morphologically. The Water Monitor is one of the biggest as it grows to as much as ten feet. It generally lives in swampy jungle areas. The reptile is more brightly marked when young. Later, the transverse rows of yellow spots on the back almost disappear and the lizard is pitch black. It has a long neck, a small, narrow head and a long snout with unusually strong jaws and bright black eyes.

Besides Water Monitor Lizards, there are other types of monitor lizards such as Yellow Oval-spotted Monitor (Varanus flavescens), Agra Monitor Lizard (Varanus griseus) and Common Monitor (Varanus monitor) the skins of which are also in demand in the market. These species are very useful in checking rats and mice population and also the population of several insects and pests.

2. Generally Water Monitors are usually upto six feet in length, rarely more. The skins of these lizards are in great demand in foreign countries and they are being exploited for this purpose. The skins are used for manufacturing fancy articles.

3. Monitor Lizards are found in many parts of the country, but Water Monitors are rare. There has been a large scale exploitation of Water Monitors for the sake of their skins. As Water Monitors are slow breeders, over-exploitation has reduced their population considerably. It was felt that they require complete protection against killing etc. for about ten years to save them from extermination and to enable them to regain their position in the scheme of nature. No estimates with regard to their availability can be given as no such study has been made in any of the States. It is, therefore, suggested that the Zoological Survey of India and State Governments may be requested to take up the question of conducting census/survey of Water Monitors.

4. The export of Water Monitor skins was first regulated on the basis of permits issued by the Secretary-General, Indian Board for Wild Life, Calcutta. Subsequently it was brought under the purview of the Export (Control) Order, 1962. The skins of lizards other than Water Monitors are not subject to Export Trade Control and no licence is, therefore, required for their export. In January, 1963, a quota of 500 Water Monitor skins having a width of 10" or more was allowed for export, annually. The limit on the width of the skin was fixed to prevent the killing of immature Water Monitor Lizards. An export quota of 100 live Water Monitor Lizards per year has also been permitted. The above quotas continue since then.

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5. There is a possibility of the skins of Water Monitor being exported under the guise of the skins of other types of lizards. The introduction of a suitable check on the export of lizard skins meant for export is, therefore, felt necessary. In this connection, the distinguishing marks on the various types of lizards are given below:-

- i) The Water Monitor Lizard has small yellow spots and larger rounded spots arranged in transverse series on the dorsal side. Ventrally, the skin is usually yellow with vertical 'V' shaped marks extending on the sides of the belly. The dorsal scales are smaller than ventrals and have a long keel in their centre.
- ii) Yellow Oval-Spotted Monitor Lizard has dorsal scales equal to ventrals.
- iii) Agra Monitor Lizard has minute dorsal scales.
- iv) Common Monitor Lizard has a round keel in the centre of its dorsal scales.

In order to ensure, that the skins of Water Monitor Lizards are not exported by misdeclaring them as the skins of lizards other than Water Monitors, it is suggested that Customs Authorities may be alerted to this danger.

6. The following table shows the exports of Monitor Lizard skins from India during the past few years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity</u> Kg.	<u>Value</u> (Rs. in lakhs)
1960-61	289,039	17.50
1961-62	506,999	41.74
1962-63	534,150	44.29
1963-64	566,943	49.11
1964-65	463,334	60.15
1965-66	314,052	46.82
1966-67	5,968	0.81
(April-May)		
1966-67	279,153	63.36
(June-March)		

The export figures for Water Monitor Lizards are not separately published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. As this item is considered important from the point of view of its preservation, it is necessary that separate export figures for this item are published.

There has been, however, no export of live Water Lizards from the country.

It is apparent from the table given above that the exports of Monitor Lizard skins have increased from Rs.17 lakhs in 1960-61 to Rs.60 lakhs in 1964-65, Rs.47 lakhs in 1965-66 and Rs.64 lakhs in 1966-67. Since these lizards are useful for checking the rat and mice population, it is necessary that some control is imposed on the export of lizard skins with a view to checking the large-scale killing of these reptiles. The question of the export of Monitor Lizards other than Water Monitors should, therefore, be pursued in consultation with the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Export quotas released for Water Monitor skins are in numbers under the existing policy. The quantity expressed in export statistics published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, is in units of weight - kgs. Efforts are being made to determine a conversion ratio between units of weight and numbers.

7. The Ministry of Commerce have estimated that there is an export potential of 500 (numbers) Water Monitor Lizard skins per annum. The existing export policy for this item covers this export potential.

8. The Water Monitor is a protected species in some of the States, as, being rare, it requires protection from large-scale exploitation. It will be a short-sighted policy to kill off a species for a short-term benefit. In view of the need for earning more foreign exchange and to maintain contact with the markets, it is recommended that the existing policy of allowing the export of 500 (numbers) of Water Monitor Lizard skins of a width not less than 10" per annum may continue for the present.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The Zoological Survey of India and the State Governments may be requested to take up the question of conducting census survey in connection with Water Monitors. (Para 3).

2. Since Monitor Lizards other than Water Lizards are useful for controlling rats and mice, it is necessary that some control is imposed on the export of lizard skins with a view to checking the large-scale killing of these reptiles. This question should therefore be pursued in consultation with the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. (Para 6).

3. The existing policy of limiting the export of Water Lizard Skins to a quota of 500 skins of a width not less than 10", per annum, may continue for the present. (Para 8).

Chapter VI

JUNGLE FOWL FEATHERS AND NECKS

The junglefowl likes proximity to water. It avoids wet, boggy land and prefers dry and even dusty ground. Scrub jungle, more particularly when berries, fruits and seeds are in season, and bamboo thickets are their favourite haunts. Forest areas in the vicinity of cultivation are also frequented.

There are two species of junglefowl found in India. These are (1) the Red Jungle Fowl (Gallus gallus Linnaeus) and (2) the Grey Jungle Fowl (Gallus sonneratti Temmincks). Of these it is only the Grey Jungle Fowl (Silver Hackle) which is of importance for export because of its attractive and multicoloured hackle or neck feathers which the cock-birds develop particularly in the breeding season. This junglefowl is found in Peninsular India roughly south of the Narmada river. It is also met with at much higher elevations than the Red Jungle Fowl and is often found within the sholas (strips of dense primeval forests, marking courses of streams or damp depressions in the hills) on the Nilgiri plateau upto 7000 feet. The habits of this bird are very much the same as those of the Red Jungle Fowl.

2. The Grey Jungle Fowl is being over-exploited on account of the increasing demand for the export of its neck feathers and neck skins. The neck feathers of this bird are used to make artificial flies used by anglers as bait in catching fish. The feathers are attached to the hook and made to resemble flies. Some species of fish e.g. trout are attracted to the 'fly' and get hooked.

3. The export of Jungle-cock necks and neck feathers of Grey Jungle Fowl are controlled under an omnibus entry 'skins and feathers of all birds other than domestic birds'. Under the existing export policy, the export of feathers of domestic birds are at present de-controlled while feathers of all birds other than domestic birds are allowed to be exported to bonafide scientific institutions by registered exporters.

In order to avoid the possibility of some unscrupulous traders trying to export the feathers of wild birds in the guise of feathers of domestic birds, the Indian Board for Wild Life recommended that all exporters of feathers of domestic birds

should be asked to produce a certificate from the prescribed authority to the effect that the feathers proposed to be exported belonged to domestic birds. This recommendation could not, however, be implemented. The question was again considered by the I.B.W.L. at its V Session held at Mysore in December, 1963 and it recommended that owing to difficulty in distinguishing feathers of wild birds from those of domestic birds, only exports of specimens to bonafide Natural History Institutions should be permitted whether they are feathers of wild or domestic birds. The Ministry of Commerce did not agree to the recommendation of I.B.W.L. It was pointed out by them that merely because of identification difficulty we should not lose the foreign exchange from the export of this item and the existing policy may continue. The matter was further examined by the I.B.W.L. at its VI Session held at Dhikala (U.P.) in June 1965 and it recommended that the question of export of feathers of wild birds should be considered by their Bird Wing and in the meantime the status quo should be maintained.

4. The following table shows the exports of 'feathers and downs (crude)' from India during the past few years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity</u> Kg.	<u>Value</u> (Rs. in lakhs)
1960-61	256	0.02
1961-62	5292	0.80
1962-63	1539	0.28
1963-64	6281	2.05
1964-65	3014	1.38
1965-66	1941*@	0.92*@
1966-67 (April-May)	-	-
1966-67 (June-March)	1137*@	1.02*@

* Excludes 'peacock feathers'.

@ The figures relate to 'Bird feathers etc.'

The export figures of neck feathers of Grey Jungle Fowl are not separately published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. These figures do not give any idea of the quantum of foreign exchange earnings from the exports of feathers of junglefowl. They only give an idea of the foreign exchange obtained from the export of feathers of all birds.

5. The Ministry of Commerce have estimated an annual export potential of 20,000 Jungle Cock Necks. This is related to demand and not to supply.

✓ and neck
feathers

6. Because of the great demand in the foreign markets for the neck feathers of this bird, it is feared that it is being over-exploited. The cock-bird has to be killed for its feathers which, as mentioned earlier, are more brightly coloured during the pairing season. There is, therefore, imminent danger of this species being exterminated if the export of its neck feathers is not banned. It is, therefore, recommended that the export of (1) skins of Grey Jungle Fowl and (2) Grey Jungle-cock necks/ should be completely banned and these might be brought under Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962.

Conclusion: and recommendation

The export of (i) skins of Grey Jungle Fowl and (ii) Grey Jungle-cock necks and neck feathers should be completely banned and these might be brought under Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962. (Para 6).



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Chapter VII

DEER MUSK

The Musk Deer (Moschus moschiferus Linn) is a forest-dwelling animal. It inhabits the Himalayas at elevations of about 8,000 feet and ascends to higher altitudes in summer. It ranges over a wide area in Central and north-eastern Asia. It is short and heavy; and its hind limbs are slightly longer than the front ones. It has coarse, thick and extremely brittle hair which protects it against cold. The Musk Deer has no horns and no face glands, though these are generally present in deer. It also has a gall bladder unlike other deer. It possesses long canine teeth in the upper jaw. The bucks have a gland beneath the skin of the abdomen. It is the secretion of this gland which is in demand in the market. It has a pungent unpleasant odour when fresh, but when dry it acquires the powerful scent of musk. It is for this reason that the animal is called the musk or kastura deer. The contents of a pod of musk weigh about an ounce.

2. The Musk Deer is now a very rare animal found along the snow-line in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Nepal and Sikkim. This animal has been persecuted by man from times immemorial mainly for its musk, which is obtained only after killing the animal. The population of Musk Deer in the whole country is estimated at not more than a few hundred and even if all of them are killed it would not be possible to obtain more than 20 kgs. of musk.

3. Musk is used mainly for medicinal purposes and in the perfumery industry. According to information collected from the Ministry of Health, the use of musk in medicine is extremely rare now. The National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, has developed a synthetic substitute for natural musk and in order to discourage the use of natural musk in the perfumery industry, wide publicity to this discovery had been given. A firm - M/s A. Maschmeijer Jr. (India) Pvt. Ltd., Madras - are now manufacturing synthetic musk (Musk Xylol and Musk Ambrette) which has a ready market. They have adequate production capacity to meet the entire requirements of the country.

4. There has been a regular trade of deer musk and exports have been taking place to Japan, France, U.S.A. and other foreign countries where the musk is also used in the perfumery industry because of its lasting odour. The following table shows the exports of natural musk from India during the last few years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity</u> Kg.	<u>Value</u> (Rs. in lakhs)
1960-61	466	34.33
1961-62	574	29.92
1962-63	545	27.14
1963-64	450	20.11
1964-65	391	16.51
1965-66	496	21.29
1966-67	66	3.23
(April-May)		
1966-67	270	23.81
(June-March)		

It is apparent from this that deer musk is an important foreign exchange earner. On an average, we have been earning about Rs.25 lakhs from the export of this item. Ministry of Commerce have estimated that musk has an annual export potential of Rs.28 lakhs. The devaluation of the rupee has provided a further incentive because of which the export of deer musk is likely to increase.

As the quantities of musk exported from India are much larger than are known to be available from natural sources, it is presumed that most of the exported musk is not genuine but an artificial product made with natural musk as base. This would mean that the foreign importer also does not have a warranty of the product he would be getting in the name of musk. It is not in the national interest to permit export of adulterated or spurious musk even for much needed foreign exchange. It would be a different matter if the contents of genuine musk in the exported product were standardised as only a small percentage of the total weight. Efforts are, however, being made to lay down standards for Indian musk to ensure that only the genuine or standardised product is exported.

5. Killing of Musk Deer is prohibited in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Musk Deer is not a protected species in N.E.F.A. The Indian Board for Wild Life have asked the concerned State Governments to take steps to prohibit the unlicensed acquisition and sale of deer musk. Proposals to breed the Musk Deer in enclosures and also to extract the musk pod without killing them

were formulated but no headway has been made so far. In spite of all these measures the Musk Deer continues to be ruthlessly killed.

6. The Indian Board for Wild Life is, of the view that further exploitation of this animal must be stopped if it is to be saved from complete extermination. It, therefore, recommended at its meeting held in Corbett National Park in June, 1965 that export of deer musk, which hitherto was uncontrolled, should be completely banned. At the instance of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the export of deer musk was brought under control on the 24th November, 1965, but a quota of 300 kg. was released for export during the licensing period 1965-66. An additional quota of 150 kg. was subsequently released for the same period as a very special case. For the licensing period 1966-67, a quota of 300 kg. was released for export, pending completion of the study of random samples of the product being exported as deer musk.

7. The Ministry of Commerce are, however, of the view that since the musk exported is not genuine, its export may be allowed to earn the much needed foreign exchange till such time as the study of the product being exported is completed. It is, therefore, recommended that the existing export quota of 300 kgs. of musk per annum may continue till the proposed investigation regarding purity of the exported musk is completed. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture may, however, get in touch with the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, who are reported to have developed a synthetic product similar to deer musk and an attempt should be made to popularise the use of this product in the perfumery trade. This will reduce the pressure on the animal which is very rare.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The existing export quota of 300 kgs. of musk per annum may continue till the proposed investigation regarding purity of the exported musk is completed. After this investigation is completed, the question of banning completely the export of deer musk may be reexamined. (Para 7).

2. The Ministry of Food & Agriculture may get in touch with the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, with a view to encouraging the use of synthetic musk in the perfumery trade. (Para 7).

Chapter VIII

DEER HORNS

The common name 'deer' includes two distinct groups of animals belonging to the two families Bovidae and Cervidae. Among the former are the antelopes and gazelles and to this group belong the blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra - Linn), the four-horned antelope (Tetracerus quadricornis - Blainville), the nilgai or Blue bull (Boselaphus tragocamelus - Pallas) and the Indian gazelle or Chinkara (Gazella gazella - Pallas). The Cervidae include the Sambar (Cervus unicolor - Kerv), the Kashmir Stag (Cervus elaphus Hanglu - Wagner), the Chital or Spotted deer (Axis axis - Erxleben), the Barking deer (Muntiacus muntjak - Zimm), the Hog-deer (Axis porcinus - Zimm), the Thamin or Brow-antlered deer (Cervus eldi - McClelland) and the Swamp deer (Cervus duvauceli - Cuvier).

2. Antelopes and gazelles have horns with bony cores and a hollow outer sheath which is marked with prominent rings. They do not shed their horns. In the Cervidae or true deer, only the male of the species, the stag, usually have horns which are called antlers and it is this product which is exported. These antlers are nothing but solid bone. They are shed periodically. During the period of growth the antlers have a temporary covering of skin which the stags rub off. Stags which have this covering of skin are said to be 'in velvet'. When the stag's antlers have reached the limits of growth a ring of bony matter, the 'burr', forms just above the point where the antler unites with its base or pedicel. Young stags shed their antlers earlier than other animals and the time of shedding varies with locality and other conditions.

3. Among the deer species, those of interest for the export trade are chiefly the Sambar and the Chital.

4. The Sambar and the Chital have a wide distribution in India but are more common in certain areas, viz., U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Mysore. They are frequently found in herds but the herds of Chital are larger. Sambar frequent rough terrain while Chital prefer the plains.

5. In recent years, populations of all deer species have been greatly reduced and it is

feared that unless all-out efforts are made to protect the species they would soon be driven to extinction except in sanctuaries and National Parks. Since the demand for deer horns in foreign markets acts as an incentive to killing the species, it was felt that some control on the export of this item was necessary.

6. The following species of deer and antelopes (dead or alive or part thereof or produce therefrom) included under Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962 are not normally allowed for export:-

- (1) Brow-antlered deer or Thamin
- (2) Indian gazelle
- (3) Indian Swamp deer
- (4) **Four**-horned antelope
- (5) Kashmir Stag
- (6) Black buck (white variety).

7. The question of regulating the export of deer horns and antelopes other than those mentioned above was considered in 1962 and it was decided in September, 1962 that their export should be allowed within a monetary ceiling of Rs.3 lakhs for the full year. This figure was 50% of the exports of deer horns licensed during June 1958-May 1959. Accordingly, deer horns worth Rs.1.5 lakhs were allowed to be exported during the half year ending 31st March, 1963. The ceiling for the year 1963-64 was also fixed at Rs.3 lakhs. But in July, 1963, the Ministry of International Trade (now Commerce) informed the Ministry of Food & Agriculture that the ceiling of Rs.3 lakhs fixed for the whole year had already been exceeded by Rs.32,295/- by the month of June, i.e., within three months of the commencement of that year. That Ministry, therefore, suggested that the ceiling figure \angle be revised and fixed at Rs.13 lakhs for the entire year. In view of the fact that the ceiling figures earlier fixed had already been exceeded, that Ministry also allowed the licensing authorities to continue the licensing of this commodity in excess of the ceiling figures in anticipation of the concurrence of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture. Subsequently, the matter was examined by the Indian Board for Wild Life at its V Session held at Mysore in December, 1963 and they recommended as follows:-

"That where it was possible to identify deer horns as shed or dropped horns their export may be permitted but in the case of horns from shot deer export should not be

permitted. In the former case a certificate from a Divisional Forest Officer of the concerned State should be obtained."

The recommendation was accepted by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture and the Ministry of Commerce were requested that further exports of deer horns should be allowed only on production of a certificate from a Divisional Forest Officer to the effect that the horns are shed or dropped horns and not the horns of shot deer. With the introduction of such a certificate it would not be necessary to fix an export quota either in physical or monetary terms. Further, the export of finished articles made from the horns of deer or stag may also be allowed subject to the exporters obtaining a general certificate from the Divisional Forest Officer concerned that only shed or dropped horns were used by them in the manufacture of finished articles even though this certificate may not indicate the quantity or value of the finished articles. This policy remained in force till September, 1966.

8. The following table shows the exports of antlers from India:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity in Kg.</u>	<u>Value in Rs. lakhs.</u>
1965-66	779	0.05
1966-67	-	-
(April-May)		
1966-67	11,306	0.91
(June-March)		

The export figures for the earlier periods are not separately classified in the Trade Classification. They are classified under the omnibus head 'hoofs, horns, tips, pieces of horns unmanufactured'. The export figures for fancy articles made out of deer horns are also not separately published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. It would have been better if the export figures for this item are published separately.

9. The trade has been representing against the necessity for the production of the certificates from the Divisional Forest Officer of the State concerned on the ground that there are practical difficulties involved in distinguishing between naturally shed or dropped horns and the horns of shot deer. It is felt that it is possible to distinguish, by and large, a naturally shed antler from the antler of a killed stag by the appearance on base of the antler below the 'burr' provided each antler is complete. A complete shed

/this antler will always have /'burr'. The trade, however, does not normally export complete antlers, but cut or dressed pieces or in the form of articles made from them. This led to difficulty in identifying whether the horns were those shed or dropped normally by deer or not.

10. The Ministry of Commerce have estimated an export potential of deer horns to the extent of Rs.13 lakhs per annum. This is based on actual exports during the period April-June, 1963 which was of the order of Rs.3.32 lakhs when the exports of deer horns were allowed without any distinction as to whether the horns were shed or dropped or horns of a shot deer but subject to a monetary ceiling, which was exceeded.

11. In view of the fact that deer horns are being exported by weight and to do away with the necessity for the production of the certificates now required, it was decided recently in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture that for the export period October, 1966 to September, 1967 the export of deer horns should be allowed by weight subject to a quota (by weight) which would not exceed the annual average weight of deer horns exported over the past three years. This would have kept the exports of deer horns within the existing levels. The Study Group, however, felt that this decision would not be in conformity with the policy of preservation of the deer population in the country and of discouraging the killing of the species for procurement of horns. It was, therefore, recommended that the existing policy of allowing freely the export of deer horns on the production of a certificate from a Divisional Forest Officer (that the horns were dropped or naturally shed) be continued. In the meantime, information should be collected from the State Chief Conservators of Forests on the quantity of horns for which such certificates had been issued during the period / from 1st October, 1965 to 30th September, 1966.

Conclusions and Recommendations.

1. The existing policy of allowing freely the export of deer horns on the production of a certificate from a Divisional Forest Officer (that the horns were dropped or naturally shed) be continued. (Para 11).

2. The State Chief Conservators of Forests should be asked to furnish information on the quantity of horns for which such certificates had been issued during the period / from 1st October, 1965 to 30th September, 1966. (Para 11).

Chapter IX

LESSER PANDA

The Lesser Panda has been described by different names in literature. These names are cat bear, red cat bear, panda, red panda and Himalayan racoon. The zoological name of the Lesser Panda is Ailurus fulgens (F. Cuvier) and it covers all the names of this animal mentioned above.

The Lesser Panda lives in the temperate forests of the Eastern Himalays above 5000 ft. or so. It is distributed in the Himalayas from Nepal and Sikkim eastwards to upper Burma and southern China. It has a rounded head, large erect pointed ears, stumpy muzzle, and short hairy-soled legs, combined with its bright chestnut colouring and ringed tail. The face and lower lips of this animal are white. There is a vertical red stripe from just above the eye to the gape.

2. The Lesser Panda is a rare animal. It is in great demand in foreign countries for display purposes in zoological parks and gardens. It is also kept as a pet. The capture and sale of this animal is normally for this purpose.

3. On the recommendation of the Indian Board for Wild Life made in February, 1961, the export of Lesser Pandas was banned as this animal had become extremely rare. Some traders in wild life, however, made representations that the Lesser Panda was not found in Indian territory and that it was imported from Nepal. It was argued therefore that the Government of India was not justified in banning its export. The view of Government of India, however, was that this animal was still surviving in some parts of India adjoining Tibet and Nepal and a ban on its export was, therefore, necessary in order to avoid extermination of this species. This matter was again considered by the Indian Board for Wild Life and the Board recommended that the Government of India should ascertain from the Government of Nepal whether it was necessary to ban or restrict the export through India of the Lesser Pandas brought into this country from Nepal. The matter was accordingly taken up with the Government of Nepal and they replied that they had decided not to export Lesser Pandas due to the scarcity of these animals in Nepal. The ban is therefore still in force.

4. Export figures of Lesser Pandas are not published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, since the ban on exports of this species has remained in force and only ad hoc exports have been effected in very special cases.

5. The Ministry of Commerce have estimated an annual export potential of 25 (numbers) Lesser Pandas. Being an extremely rare animal, it appears that the export potential estimated by the Ministry of Commerce is related to demand and not to supply.

6. It has been accepted all the world over that it is wrong to exploit any of the wonderful variety of free-living animals and birds to extinction. As the Lesser Panda is a rare animal in the country, it is recommended that the export of the Lesser Panda should be completely banned.

Conclusion and Recommendation

As the Lesser Panda is a rare animal in the country, it is recommended that the export of the Lesser Panda should be completely banned. (Para 6).



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Chapter X

SLOW LORIS AND SLENDER LORIS

The Slow Loris (Nycticobus coucang, Boddaert) and the Slender Loris (Loris tradigradus, Linn.) belong to Lemuroidea sub-order, while Apes and Monkeys fall under the sub-order Arthropoidea. The Lorises are, therefore, not monkeys although they have monkey-like habits. They are rare animals and their population has not been estimated. The Slow Loris is found in Assam, Tripura and Chittagong and the Slender Loris in the Western Ghats, South India. The former is an inhabitant of dense forests but the latter is also found in open tree jungles. Both are nocturnal in habit. They eat insects, lizards and small birds etc.

The Slow Loris is a round-headed, round-eyed lemur, distinguishable as such in having its second toe, clawed and other toes furnished with flat nails. It is stout in body and limb, with a coat of dense fur, variable in colouring. The head and shoulders may be silvery white, creamy or grey; the flanks and rump, rusty or buff or ash grey. It has a distinctive brown stripe marking the middle line of its back and terminating on the crown. It has also distinct brown circles round its lustrous, owl-like eyes.

The Slender Loris is much like the Slow Loris in form but less pleasing because of its lean and lanky appearance. The limbs are longer and more slender, the ears larger, the snout more pointed, the eyes more close-set. The fur is less dense, yet soft and woolly. Its colour varies from dark grey to earthy brown with an embellishment of silvery hairs, the lower parts always much paler. The eyes have black or dark brown circles.

2. These lemurs are in demand in foreign countries for medical research. There is a superstitious belief that the eyes of the Slender Loris are said to be a potent love charm and a cure for certain eye diseases. The capture and sale of these animals is normally for this purpose.

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3. Till September, 1965, the Slow and Slender Lorises did not figure in the Export (Control) Order, 1962 and, therefore, they were treated as uncontrolled for purposes of export. They were brought under the purview of Export Trade Control with effect from 11.9.1965 and their exports are now allowed on merits! This export policy has

been in vogue since then.

4. For the first time in 1965, a request was received from the trade for the export of 100 Slow Lorises and 100 Slender Lorises to the University of Birmingham for medical research purposes. The Ministry of Food & Agriculture agreed, as a special case and on expert advice, to the export being allowed of not more than 20 Slow Lorises and 20 Slender Lorises. Subsequently, on the persistent demand from the trade, which had the support of the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Food & Agriculture further allowed the export of another 30 Slender Lorises and 30 Slow Lorises in January, 1966. There has been no further export since then.

5. These lemurs are rare species and need to be strictly preserved. Keeping in view the avowed policy of preservation of wild life in the country, it is suggested that the export of these lemurs should be completely banned and they should be brought under Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The export of these lemurs should be completely banned and they should be brought under Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962.
(Para 5).

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Chapter XI

LEOPARD OR PANTHER SKINS

The leopard (Panthera pardus Linnaeus) is met within almost all forests as well as outside forests where it can readily prey on domestic animals. There is only one species of leopard in India. The average length of the male is 7 ft. and of the female a few inches less. There is considerable variation in size and markings in different parts of the country. They are the most versatile of the greater cats, suiting themselves to their surroundings.

2. Leopards are exploited for the sake of their skins which are in great demand in foreign countries. These skins are generally used for making wearing apparel, which is the fashion of the day. It is also exhibited as a trophy for decoration purposes. In addition to the common leopard, the Snow Leopard (Ounce) and the Clouded Leopard are also found in India but they are rare in the country.

3. The Clouded Leopard, Hunting Leopard and Snow Leopard and their products figure in Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962 and their exports are not allowed. Till September, 1966, there was, however, no restriction on the export of the ordinary leopard and its products. The Ministry of Food & Agriculture had recommended to the Ministry of Commerce that the skins of leopards (panthers) may be brought under Part 'B' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962 with effect from 1st October, 1966 and only such skins should be exported which are of ordinary leopards.

4. The following table shows the exports of leopards and tiger skins (undressed) from India:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity</u> Kg.	<u>Value</u> (Rs. in lakhs)
1965-66	6889	19.74
1966-67	1599	5.58
(April-May)		
1966-67	3754	20.36
(June-March)		

(Export figures for earlier periods have not been published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta).

Leopard and tiger skins are clubbed together under one head and as such separate figures for leopard skins are not available. As leopard skins are considered to be an important item of export, it is necessary that separate figures for this item are published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. It is also desirable that figures relating to quantum of exports of leopard skins are published in numbers and not in kilograms as at present.

5. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has recommended to all Governments of the World to introduce immediate control and restrict the import and export of the skins of Jaguars, leopards, cheetahs and other spotted cats, in either processed or un-processed forms, as there is a threat to the continued existence of these species because of the growing demand for their products. It is felt that the increased demand for leopard skins etc. is resulting in the depletion of the population of leopards in the country. There is an imminent danger of this species becoming rare if the export of its skins is not restricted, but keeping in view the need for earning foreign exchange, it is recommended that the export of panther and leopard skins should be allowed freely till a decision in this regard is taken by the Indian Board for Wild Life.

Shri Humayun Abdulali, a member of the Study Group, dissented from this view and felt strongly that commercialization of leopard (panther) skins should be stopped.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that the export of panther and leopard skins should be allowed freely till a decision in this regard is taken by the Indian Board for Wild Life.

(Para 5).

Chapter XII

LANGURS

There are different species of langurs found in India. Some of the important ones are (1) The Golden Langur; (2) The Lakhimpur Langur; (3) The Malabar Langur; (4) The Nilgiri Langur; (5) The Travancore Langur; and (6) The Common Langur.

2. The Golden Langur (Presbytis geei, Thajuria) is found east of the Sankosh river near the Bhutan border. It has an almost uniform deep cream colour in dull light, bright golden in sunlight. Its face is black and tail is longer than in the other langurs and slightly tassellated. This langur is considered rare because of its very localised distribution in India.

3. The Lakhimpur or Capped Langur (Presbytis pileatus - Blyth) is found in the dense forests of Assam and on the Indo-Burma border. It is distinguished by a cap or crown of erect, long, coarse hairs directed backwards from the forehead, which give this langur its name of the Capped Langur. The dark-grey colouring of its back and limbs contrasts sharply with the pale fulvous orange or golden red of the cheeks and underparts.

4. The Nilgiri Langur (Presbytis johni - Fischer) is found in the Western Ghats from Coorg to Cape Comorin, the Nilgiris, Annamalai, Brahmagiri, Tinneveli and Palni Hills. It frequents the sholas (evergreen temperate forests) in these areas and invades the adjoining gardens and belts of cultivated woodland. They live at altitudes from 3000' to 7000'. It is a glossy black or blackish-brown langur with a yellowish-brown head.

This species of langur has been severely persecuted by tribals for its attractive fur and for its flesh which is valued for its supposed medicinal properties. Its numbers have consequently been reduced to a critical level where it requires complete protection.

5. In South India, particularly in Kerala State, some authorities recognise two different species of langurs known as the Malabar Langur (Presbytis priam) and the Travancore or Crested South Indian Langur (Presbytis hypoleucus). There is considerable controversy about the zoological status of these langurs; some authorities give them the status

of separate species, some of separate sub-species and others of different races. Only experts can, however, distinguish one from the other and indeed it is even difficult to distinguish them from the Common Langur of South India.

6. The Common Langur (Presbytis entellus - Dupresne) is found in large numbers practically over the whole of India from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin except the Western deserts. It is a grey-bodied monkey with a flat black face fringed with pale grey whiskers and beard and with a peak of hair shading its brow. Its size, heaviness of coat and shade of colour varies from place to place. In the Himalayas, it reaches its best development both in size and in its silvery grey coat. In the South, it is a smaller and a much darker grey. It has the typical build of a langur with a very long tail, a narrow waist, a tall body and long limbs; the legs are longer than the hands, so that the hind quarters are higher than the shoulders when the animal is on all fours on the ground.

7. Langurs are in great demand in foreign countries for medical research purposes. These are also used for the preparation of polio vaccine etc. Certain species of langurs, viz., the Nilgiri Langurs, are also hunted by tribals for their skins and for their flesh which is believed to be of medicinal value in South India.

8. Under the present policy, the export of langurs is regulated as follows:-

(1) Golden Langur	नियमित रूप से	Export is not allowed
(2) Lakhimpur Langur	४	Export is allowed to
(3) Malabar Langur	४	bonafide scientific
(4) Nilgiri Langur	४	institutions by
		registered exporters.
(5) Travancore Langur		Export is allowed within
		an annual ceiling of
		20 numbers.
(6) Common Langur		Export is allowed within
		an annual ceiling of
		100 numbers.

On expert advice, the export quotas were fixed for Travancore Langurs (which includes the Malabar Langur) and the Common Langur to the extent of 20 and 100 respectively per year. This was also subject to the condition that young langurs would not be exported.

9. For the current licensing period (October, 1966 - September, 1967), the export of Common langurs has been allowed subject to a ceiling of 100 in number. Where these

langurs have been obtained from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in which States and Territory they have been declared as vermin, the quota ceiling mentioned above will not apply, but the export will be subject to the production of a certificate of origin to be signed by a Forest Officer not below the rank of a Deputy Conservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officer. This is also subject to the condition that the langurs are exported for bonafide research work by registered exporters.

10. The export of the other five species of langurs, viz., Golden langurs, Lakhimpur langurs, Nilgiri langurs, Travancore langurs and Malabar langurs, has, however, not been allowed, as they are considered comparatively rare and they are restricted in their distribution.

11. The export figures of common langurs are not separately published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, at present. As this is an important item, it would be desirable that this is done.

12. The Ministry of Commerce have estimated an annual export potential of 250 langurs. As no census ecological surveys have been conducted on the occurrence and population of common langurs in the country, the export potential is based on demand and not on supply.

13. It would not be in the interest of preservation of wild life in the country to allow the export of rare species of langurs. It is, therefore, recommended that the export of Lakhimpur langurs, Nilgiri langurs, Malabar langurs and Travancore langurs should not be allowed and these may be brought under Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962, which already includes the Golden langur.

As Common langurs are found in large numbers, their export may be allowed subject to a quota limit in number. The quota already fixed, i.e., 100 numbers per year, is reasonable and may be continued. Where these langurs have been obtained from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the quota ceiling will not apply but it will be subject to the production of a certificate of origin to be signed by a Forest Officer not below the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officer. The export of langurs will, however, be subject to the condition that

the langurs are exported for bonafide research work by registered exporters.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The export of the Lakhimpur, Nilgiri, Malabar and Travancore langurs should not be allowed. These species should, therefore, be included under Part 'A' of Schedule I to the Export (Control) Order, 1962.
(Para 13).

2. The existing policy of allowing the export of 100 common langurs per annum should from States other than Maharashtra, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh where the quota ceiling does not apply subject to the production of the specified certificate be continued.
(Para 13).



Chapter XIII

JHA COMMITTEE REPORT

EXPORTS OF INDIAN GOODS AS SOUVENIRS

Ministry of Commerce at the instance of ^{the} C.C.I.&E. had requested the Study Group to consider during their discussions the recommendation made by the Jha Committee on the export of Indian goods as Souvenirs, and to make suitable recommendations thereon.

The Jha Committee in para 19 Chapter IV of their report have, inter-alia, recommended that:

"One of the objectives of promoting tourism is to encourage the sale of Indian products to tourists. Prime facie, therefore, it would seem that there need be no value limits on the amount of goods that a tourist can buy in the country and take out with him. There is, however, another side of the picture. What the tourist buys should naturally be paid for in foreign exchange. In order to eliminate any possibility of leakage of foreign exchange, there has been in operation an upper limit of Rs.500/- on the value of souvenirs which a tourist can take out of India. This limitation sometimes inhibits the tourists when shopping in this country for souvenirs. In other words, a restriction which was intended to prevent possible leakage of foreign exchange has the effect of resulting in a loss of foreign exchange. Now that Government have introduced a booklet which contains a declaration of the travellers' cheques and currency which a tourist brings into the country and cashes here, we recommend that there should be no limit on the amount of Indian goods which a tourist can take out with him. In case of doubt, it should be possible for the Customs to check if the booklet which he carries indicates that the goods could have been purchased with the foreign exchange which he has utilised in the country."

2. In pursuance of the above recommendation, the C.C.I. & E. pointed out that the existing policy governing the export of wild life was very restrictive and anomalous inasmuch as an Indian might buy articles upto any value but a foreign tourist was not able to do so, especially when his purchases bring foreign exchange.

3. The question of allowing foreign tourists souvenirs of interest made of wild life products was separately considered by the VIth meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.B.W.L. held at

New Delhi on 7.8.1962 and it was decided that the foreign tourist leaving India may be permitted to take with him as accompanying baggage articles made from peacock feathers and crocodile skins upto the following limits:

- a) fancy articles made of peacock feathers upto a maximum weight of 1 lb. per passenger.
- b) upto a maximum of six articles made of crocodile skins, per person, the articles to be limited as shown below:-
 - i) Suit case or attache case 1
 - ii) Lady's hand bag 2
 - iii) Shoes (Pair) 1
 - iv) Wallets 2
 - v) Spectacle cases, and
 - vi) other similar articles 2

The above recommendation was adopted by the Government for their existing policy. The proposal made by the C.C.I. & E. was considered by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and it was felt that the existing policy was liberal enough and there was hardly any need to change this in the context of the recommendation of the Jha Committee. The underlying intention of the Jha Committee's recommendation seems to be that the tourists trade should be encouraged by removing existing monetary restrictions on the bonafide purchases of Indian arts and crafts by a tourist.

4. The Ministry of Commerce have supported the view expressed by the C.C.I. & E. and have referred the matter again to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for reconsideration stating that a tourist may not normally buy more articles than are permitted at present but a limitation on purchases by a tourist from the market does not seem to have any justification when there is no such limitation on the purchases which might be made by Indians within the country. Considering all the views, the Study Group recommended that since there is no restriction on the sale of such finished articles within the country and since the accompanied baggage of tourists is usually limited, there should be no restrictions on the export of articles made of peacock feathers and crocodile skins as accompanied baggage of the travellers.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that there should be no restrictions on the export of articles made of peacock feathers and crocodile skins which are exported as accompanied baggage of the travellers. (Para 4).